

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0952
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DEPARTMENT FOR CU/IVP/V

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UK

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY VISITOR ANN TAYLOR AND SIMILAR CASES

REF: (A) STATE 84571; (B) LONDON 3602; (C) LONDON 5290

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES PROMPT RESPONSE TO TAYLOR REQUEST (TAYLOR NOW PLANS TO STAY WITH FRIENDS IN NYC AND WILL NOT REQUIRE HOTEL RESERVATIONS), AND RECOGNIZES THAT POLITICAL PARTIES, NOT DEPARTMENT OR USIA, CONTROL CONVENTION TICKETS. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONCERNED AT INSENSITIVE TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND PROMINENT TRADE UNIONISTS IMPLIED BY "ONE SESSION ATTENDANCE" PROPOSAL.

2. EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR VISITORS CREDENTIALS FROM MPS AND LEADING BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS (REFSB AND C) AS WELL AS MRS. TAYLOR, AND WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER REQUESTS FROM OTHER MPS AND UNION LEADERS. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT US ELECTORAL PROCESS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ARE OF INTENSE INTEREST (AND CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE) TO BRITISH POLITICAL FIGURES AND UNIONISTS. IN PAST WE HAVE SPONSORED SHORT VISITS TO CONVENTIONS FOR YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (INCLUDING MPS AND UNIONISTS). FOR VARIETY OF REASONS WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO SPONSOR SUCH A VISIT THIS YEAR, EVEN THOUGH INTEREST IN CONVENTIONS REMAINS HIGH. TAYLOR,
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UNIONISTS AND, WE EXPECT, OTHERS ARE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO

US AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE TO OBSERVE CONVENTIONS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT US HAS AN INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING SUCH TRAVEL. YET BY BEING ABLE TO OFFER PROSPECTIVE OBSERVERS ENTRY TO ONLY ONE SESSION, WE WOULD BE DISCOURAGING IT.

3. EMBASSY URGES THAT DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH USIA REOPEN THIS MATTER WITH DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE (AND REPUBLICAN NC, IF SIMILAR POLICY APPLIES), POINTING OUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IF MPS AND LEADING UNIONISTS ARE TREATED IN THIS WAY. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED WILL BE SMALL, PROBABLY WELL UNDER 20. FYI WHEN DNC CHAIRMAN ROBERT STRAUSS VISITED UK LAST YEAR HE INVITED LABOR PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY RON HAYWARD TO ATTEND CONVENTION AS HIS GUEST AND PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT WISH TO GIVE OFFENSE TO BRITISH MPS OR TRADE UNIONISTS. END FYI.

ARMSTRONG

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